Divergent views on air pollution in Delhi

641. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Pollution Control Board showed a drop in the level of pollution in Delhi as compared to 1998 while the survey conducted by the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) reveals that air pollution in Delhi has intensified;

(b) whether the TERI report rates the Air Quality Index of Delhi between 85-100, which is dangerous to health; and

(c) If so, what is the actual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The findings of TERI are based on monitoring of air quality at only one location whereas (CPCB has been monitoring air quality at a number of locations through a net work of ambient air quality monitoring stations in Delhi. CPCB has initiated a study in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur for development of Air Quality Index for India. The air quality data of Delhi, as being monitored by CPCB, has indicated a downward trend in comparison to 1998 air quality data.

Death of Peacocks in M.P.

642. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of peacocks died in the recent past due to consuming of contaminated bajra at Murena district in MP;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have asked for a detailed report in this regard from the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government, a total of 46 Peacocks have died in Murena district of Madhya Pradesh. According to the post-mortem report, the cause of death is stated to be internal hemorrhage due to consumption of bajra seeds treated with insecticides.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government has reported that the peacocks were not poisoned deliberately and there is no evidence of illegal hunting. The peacocks died after consuming insecticide treated bajra seeds that were sown in the agricultural fields. Delay in monsoon prevented the germination of seeds and also the leaching of insecticides into the soil.

Smuggling of Ozone—eating gases

643. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Times of India of 18th May, 2000 under caption, "Smuggling of ozone—eating gases worries Government"; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether smuggling of ozone-eating gases from Nepal, Bangladesh, etc. has been detected; if so, the number of such cases noticed during the last three years and action taken against each; and

(c) what action has been taken to stop this sort of smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three cases of smuggling of refrigerant gases from Nepal and Bangladesh have been detected by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and 3 cases detected in Patna Customs Commissionerate and 2 cases in Lucknow Customs